concerned. The Central Government has received copies of the said orders and action is being taken to lay them on the Table of the House. The Delimitation Commission has reported that the delimitation work for the States of Rajasthan, Sikkim and West Bengal are in its final stage. The work of delimitation in remaining States is in full swing, on a tight schedule, and its is expected that the work of delimitation is likely to be completed by December, 2006.

Functioning of political parties

1290. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

whether political parties not believing in the principles of socialism enshrined in the Constitution are allowed to function in the country;

whether the Election Commission of India has any mechanism to evaluate this aspect in the larger interest of protecting the Constitution;

whether the Commission has made any suggestion in this regard; and

if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) Political parties are registered with the Election Commission under the provisions of section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. As per sub-section (5) of the said section, the memorandum, rules or regulations of the association or body seeking registration should contain a specific provision that 'the association or body shall bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India as by law established, and to the principles of socialism, secularism and democracy, and would uphold the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India'. Before registering a political party, the Election Commission ensures that this provision is complied with.

(c) and (d) The Election Commission has not made any specific suggestion with regard to the provisions of sub-section (5) of section 29A mentioned above. However, the Commission has suggested that in order to restrict mushrooming of a large number of non-serious political parties, another provision may be introduced under the existing section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, authorizing the Commission to issue necessary orders, regulating registration and de-registration of political parties.